THE NEWS OF HUNGARIAN PHILATELY

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Happy 2nd Birthday, Lily!

SOCIETY FOR HUNGARIAN PHILATELY
1920 Fawn Lane, Hellertown, PA 18055-2117 USA
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SOCIETY FOR HUNGARIAN PHILATELY
1920 Fawn Lane
Hellertown, PA 18055-2117 USA

Established 1969

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APS Affiliate 34

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The Society for Hungarian Philately (SHP) is a non-profit organization chartered under the laws of the State of Connecticut and is devoted to the study of every aspect of Hungarian philately. SHP publishes a quarterly newsletter in March, June, September, and December. Manuscripts for publication may be sent to the Society's address listed above. The articles published herein represent the opinions of the individual authors and the content is not to be construed as official policy of this Society or any of its officers. All publication rights reserved for SHP. Articles from this journal may be reprinted with the written permission of the Editor and the authors only. Back issues of the newsletter may be purchased for $3.00, postpaid, (when available).

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This issue closed on 1 May 2008
The next issue will close 1 August 2008

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

***by* H. Alan Hoover**

Tick, tick, tick ….. tax day …. Thank goodness I have had mine done a whole 48 hours ago!

Talking about tick, tick tick - as previously reported, my term as your President is to end soon in December. Our present bylaws dictate I will no longer able to continue serving as your president. I have appointed a nominating committee to try to identify a candidate who will be willing to serve in this capacity and serve our society for the next four years through 2012. If you know of a member within our society or would wish to consider this yourself, kindly contact any Executive Board member as soon as possible.

Another plea, again. This quarterly newsletter only survives because of the exhausting efforts of our editor and writers like all of you. Some of our members have been continuous suppliers of material for this journal, but our editor reports "the bad news is that I've used every bit of material I received or had in the 'new material' folder in order to complete this issue. There's nothing in the pipeline and summer is always a slow time for stamp business. I'm prepared to do a combined, July-December issue if that what it takes. That's too bad because we haven't missed a quarterly publication since the late 70s or early 80s." So, can you contribute something? Can you write some type of article about anything small or large or even just a question to bring some new subject to the pages of our journal, no matter how trivial? We have an obligation to serve you but can you help serve the rest of the membership by contributing something? Our editor awaits anything.

In the last issue Csaba announced the he is ceasing the authorship of the "What I Saw on eBay" column. We received a few emails from members stating the value of outlining some of the rarities and some of the "buyer beware" items. But Csaba cannot be a "one-man-band." If this is something that you might consider, won't you at least volunteer to maintain this activity?

In last issue, we reminded delinquent renewing members of some previous incorrect information regarding membership renewal. Leave it to say that if your mailing tag says "thru 2007" on your mailing label, then you must renew or this will be your last issue! Please contact our treasurer immediately. His address can be found on the inside cover of this newsletter.

Our annual participation for exhibits will follow the annual APS STAMPSHOW (http://www.stamps.org/StampShow/intro.htm) circuit beginning this year. This is a large show sponsored by the APS and occurs each year in August. This year it will be held August 14 – 17 at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, CT. We look forward to your participation there. If you are an exhibitor and would like to exhibit, kindly contact me immediately or contact the APS directly for an application. I plan on being at this year's show again, the last of my tenure. I hope to see many of our members at this large, wonderful show. Exhibitors, please consider participating. As of this date we have one Society member entered in this year's show.

Guess that' all for this column – and as always Ray, we will 'Keep stampin'.

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KUDOS & WELCOME

Congratulations to our exhibitors! **Lyman R. Caswell** exhibited in the Prix d'Honneur at the Ameristamp Expo with one-frame exhibit *The 1953 Commemorative Postage Due Stamp of Hungary*. **Jay Carrigan** exhibited the single frame *Certified Mail in Northern Bavaria* at the Ameristamp Expo Prix d'Honneur. **Alfred F. Kugel** participated at the same show in the Prix d'Honneur with the one-frame exhibit titled *The Turkish Occupation of the Caucasus and Persia*. In the competitive class, Mr. **Kugel** received a gold for *The Nyasaland Field Forces in World War I*.

Welcome (and welcome back) to our newest members: Mr. **Roger Acquistapace** of Santa Rosa, CA; Mr. **Chris Ceremuga** of Sydney, Australia; Mr. **Alexander Dukay** of Ann Arbor, MI; Mr. **Wallace Green** of Seattle, WA; and Mr. **Rudy Schaarschmidt** of San Jose, CA.

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THE ORIGIN OF THE SOVIET PORTRAIT ISSUE AND ITS ARTISTS' ENGRAVINGS

by **Pál Rampacher**

/ translated from the October 1943 issue of ***A Bélyeggyűjtő*** */*

The five values of the first Soviet issue were put into circulation in June of 1919. Prior to this, there was inserted an advertisement in the newspapers requesting artist to compete with designs for the proposed issue. Due to the difficult time, many need and suffering artists participated.

The winning artists were Ferenc Bokros, Oszkár Fekete, Arnold Gara, and József Gróf. Bokros deigned the heads of Marx and Engels. The Petőfi head was designed by Fekete. Bokros , Gróf, and Gara together designed the Martinovics and Dózsa heads. These artists were also obligated to supervise the artistic work during the engraving process.

It was desired to release the stamps prior to the opening of the proletariat parliament scheduled for June 12, 1919. Since the time was short and the work urgent, they first considered producing these stamps by typography. They accordingly produced a cliché of Petofi's head with a 3 korona value. With this, they printed a few proofs in different colors. These test-prints [presumably were not satisfactory because the stamps were eventually produced by lithography. There are in my collection five of these variously colored test-prints of the trial cliché.

The engraving was done by Henrik Kirchner an employee of the Athenaeum printing establishment. /Translator's note: Willy Bán in his A Magyar postabélyegek adattára gives the engraver's names a Herman Kircher. He also spells Bokros' name as Bokross. Since Bokros was a personal friend of the author, Pál Rampacher, it is assumed that the spelling given in this article is correct./

At this time, it was decided to print the stamps in two colors. A few more color proofs were made of various color combinations. A good part of these sample prints are in my possession.

The stamps were then printed in the State Printing Office on paper watermarked with the double cross. The artists were paid at the completion of the stamps by the people's committee. They received 'white money' which at that time had little market value. /Translator's note: 'White money" was authorized by the soviets and consisted of banknotes printed only on one side, the reverse side being blank; hence, the name. The original Hungarian currency which was supposed to be withdrawn from use was circulated secretly and was called "blue money."/

It was about this time when I became interested in stamp matters. It so happened one day that an old acquaintance of mine, Ferenc Bokros, visited me. While there, he complained about receiving worthless banknotes in return for his work in connection with the production of the stamps.

In the meantime, the stamps were put into circulation with the restriction that no one was allowed to buy more than one set. The stamps immediately became desirable. Knowing this, I advised Bokros that the four artists should get together and return to the people's committee and request the soviet stamps in lieu of their "white money." The idea turned out well because the artists received numerous sheets which they sold to collectors for valuable "blue money." I assisted them in this also, by finding collectors who wished to buy. I still remember that my good friend Mirkó Poppovits bought a few sheets. At that time a block of four was rare so these were readily sold.

I should mention also that a few days before the opening session Ferenc Bokros was called before the people's committee. The requested that for these stamps a memorial sheet for the opening of the parliament be designed and executed at once. The memorial sheet is not one that we have today but the former one. /Translator's note: This reference to an original and a later sheet is not clear./ The first sketch of the memorial sheet and the test-print are in my collection.

A few months later, but after the communist regime, Ferenc Bokros visited me and sadly complained that the artists were out of work and in bad straits. Because I had once given them advice which helped to improve their financial position, Bokros requested my further assistance in finding work for them.

I had started to collect Hungarian stamps and their proof prints during the war in order to make a permanent record of their origin and use in those sad times and immediately after ward. Based on this and the fact that I always have been interested in small graphic work, an idea occurred to my. I suggested to Bokros that the prize winning artists could design copper plate etchings of the Soviet stamp issue. Bokros and Gara already were well known artists in that filed.

Bokros considered the suggestion favorably and in a few days brought his colleagues to me and together we made an agreement as follows:

The artist agreed to design and engrave a plate for each prize winning stamp to be used in the Industrial Arts School to make prints under the supervision of Bokros and myself.

These stamps which won the prizes were Marx, 5 fillér; Petőfi, 3 korona; Martinovics, 5 fillér; Dózsa, 10 fillér; and Engels, 3 fillér.

In accordance with the agreement, ten pieces must have numbers and be signed by the artist and fifty pieces without numbers but each piece must have the artist's name engraved upon it.

I took over the responsibility for all of the expenses. The numbered sheets should belong to the artists to be disposed of the he wished and I would take over r the fifty unnumbered sheets.

At the time, I recorded the names of the buyers of the numbered sheets; however, I now remember that I procured the first numbers and the second numbers went with the Poppovits collection to the Postal Museum.

On those sheets which had no numbers, there is printed on the back, at the bottom, the word 'Libellus.'

This artist proof of the Marx stamp with an engraved value of 45 fillér was offered on eBay recently by a seller from Great Britain. The asking price was around £290 and it didn't find a buyer. It was later re-listed for £190 and again it did not sell.

Shortly all of the sheets were sold and people were trying to obtain more of them. Thereupon, a man of Croatian nationality offered to finance the artists in a similar enterprise but on a larger scale. After this offer, the artists came to me and requested the plates to make additional prints. I refused this request and to avoid further discussion, I produced the plates and had the artists destroy them in my presence.

After that, the artists in collaboration with the Croatian produced a large quantity of engraving of the Soviet issue in two colors. These engravings are smaller in size that the originals and in denominations as follows: Marx, 45 fillér; Petőfi, 45 fillér; Martinovics, 5 fillér; Dózsa, 10 fillér; and Engels, 15 fillér. Most of there engravings were sent out of the country to Austria, Italy, and Jugoslavia. / Editor's note: The illustration on the left is probably one of these engravings. /

Under the same terms of agreement stated above (quantities of 10 numbered + 50 unnumbered) Libellus issued similar engravings:

Imre Földes, the engraving of King Károly and Queen Zita
Jenő Haranghy, the engraving of the 40 fillér War Charity issue III (Turul)
Ferenc Helbing, the engraving of the 100 korona Madonna
Ferenc Bokros, steel engraving of the 3 krajcár head of King Ferenc József

My engraved essays also have found followers in foreign countries. For example, "Sammlerwoche Verlag" of München issued engraved prints of stamps of various countries. Colonel Hessheimer did the designing. I have also heard that English and French artists have experimented with these engravings.

These memorial post cards that were issued in small quantities for the 50th anniversary of Hungarian stamps were printed partly using these plates. These cards are

Madonna stamp with 100 korona value
Mirkó Poppovits, founder of the Hungarian Stamp Museum,
Ferenc József 3 krajcár value of the 1871 issue,
Queen Zita 40 fillér value,
King Károly, 10 fillér value

I think that there have been 300 post cards of each type except for the one depicting Poppovits' portrait designed by Bokros. This was limited to 100 copies and because the plate was too finely engraved, the prints turned out to be unclear. Poppovits took possession of most of these cards as well as the plate.

Hungarian stamp essays were not created for business reasons. My purpose was to prove that if we make artistic stamps, then from an artistic viewpoint, value rises higher, also. /Translator's note: The author's meaning in this statement is not clear./

/ Editor's note: Pál Rampacher was a renowned Hungarian jurist in the years between the two world wars. **A magyar bélyegek monográfiája / The monograph of Hungarian Stamps** presents the noted collector Rampacher in a different light. In the book, Rampacher is described as greedily 'ambushing' the artists as they left the building with their copies of the trial prints in order to acquire them on the spot. In a later section titled 'Essaik / Essays' the monograph discusses the creation of the various artists' proofs as a speculative, manipulative business venture by Rampacher. /

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HOW TO IDENTIFY THE GREEN-FRAME POSTAGE DUES ON COVER

***by* Lyman R. Caswell**

The design of the first Hungarian postage due stamps consisted of a green art-nouveau frame with the numeral of value in the center. This design was used through ten separate issues of postage due stamps, 1903-1922, five with black numerals *(zöldportó),* four with red numerals *(pirosszámú zöldportó),* and, with modification, for the *Magyar Posta* issue of 1920. The black numeral issues differ from each other in their watermarks. The purpose of this article is to tell how to distinguish between stamps of each issue when they are on cover, when watermarks usually cannot be identified. This is especially true for the first four issues, whose watermarks have different designs of St. Stephen's crown.

The usual rule of thumb for identifying the issue of a stamp on cover is to assume that it is from the issue most recent to the date of the postmark. This is not a dependable criterion for the postage due stamps of the black-numeral issues, since the stamps of each issue remained available for use in the post offices until the supplies were used up. I have seen postage due stamps of the 1903 first issue on covers postmarked as late as 1915. With a few exceptions, these postage due stamps remained valid for use until 1927, following the replacement of the korona by the pengő, though the inflation of the korona had robbed them of their value by 1923.

The complete list of denominations of the green-frame black-numeral postage due stamps is 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 12, 20, 50, and 100 fillér. All of the issues, except the first one, lacked one or more of these values, as noted in the descriptions of each issue.

First issue. The watermark of the postage due issue of 1903 consisted of St. Stephen's crown in a circle, with a star and "VI" in the interstices of the circle (Scott 135, Michel 3, MBA III). The entire watermark covered four stamps. The features useful in identifying this issue on cover are strong toning of the paper and the large perforations. The commoner perforation gauge is 11 $^{1}/_{2}$ x 12 (Michel and MBA lA-9A, Scott J1-J9; Michel and Scott give 11 ~ x 12). All 100 fillér black-numeral stamps on cover are from this first issue. A subset of the first issue, lacking the 100-filler value, has perforation 11 ~ (Michel and MBA 1B-8B; Scott lists only the 12, 20, and 50 fillér values, J6a-J8a). All 1, 2, and 20 fillér stamps with either perforation gauge are from the first issue.

Second issue. The postage due stamps of 1905-1906 were watermarked with St. Stephen's crown with "VI" in the center of each group of four crowns (Scott 136a, Michel 4, MBA ***N)***. Most stamps show parts of two crowns. There are two sets of the second issue. The earlier set (Scott J12a-J15a, J17a, J18; Michel and MBA 11A-14A, 16A, 17A) is perforated 11$^{1}/_{2}$ x 12, like the first issue, but can be distinguished from the first issue by much lighter toning of the paper. The set has no 1, 2, and 20 fillér values and the 100 fillér stamp of this set was not placed in use. The second set (Scott J11b-J17b, Michel and MBA 10B-16B) is perforated 15. It lacks the 1 and 100 fillér values. The paper of the second set also is lightly toned, which distinguishes it from the subsequent perforated 15 issues on cover.

It is advisable to make side-by-side examination of off-cover used stamps of the first and sec-

ond issues that have been unequivocally identified by their watermarks in order to learn to recognize them by their differences in paper toning. The paper of subsequent postage due issues lacks toning.

Third and fourth issues. The crown watermarks of the third and fourth black numeral issues are very similar (third issue: Michel S, MBA V; fourth issue: Michel 6, MBA VI). The Scott Catalogue actually merges the two issues, listing the watermark of the third issue (136) and listing the stamps of the fourth issue. Both issues are perforated 15 and are on white, untoned paper; thus, in most cases it is not possible to distinguish them from each other on cover. The third issue, 1908-1909 (Michel 19X-24X, MBA 18-23), lacks the 1, 50, and 100 fillér values, and the fourth issue, 1909-1914 (Scott J10 - J17, Michel 18Y-25Y, MBA 24-31), lacks the 100 fillér value. While most of the stamps of the fourth issue were issued in 1909, the 1 fillér was issued in December 1913, and the 50 fillér in 1914. The 50 fillér denomination perforated 15 on cover and postmarked before 1914 must be from the second issue.

Fifth issue. A new kind of watermark, the multiple apostolic cross, was used on the paper of the fifth and last black-numeral issue of 1914. This watermark was impressed more strongly, and can be distinguished on stamps on cover under a strong light. The usual form of this watermark on postage due stamps is horizontal (Scott 137 horiz., Michel 7liegend, MBA Vila). The set with this watermark also lacks the 100 fillér value. A small number of stamps were issued with the vertical multiple apostolic cross watermark (Scott 137 vert., Michel 7 stehend, MBA VII). This set lacks the 1, 10, 12, and 100 fillér values. All of the stamps of the fifth issue were perforated 15.

Magyar Posta issue. The stamps prepared by the short-lived Hungarian republic in 1919, but not issued until 1920, also have black numerals, perforation 15, and the horizontal multiple apostolic cross watermark. They are easily distinguished from all other issues by the omission of the abbreviation *Kir.* from the inscription at the top of the stamp. The denominations are 2, 3, 20, 40, and 50 fillér. The 3 fillér Magyar Posta stamp is the only officially issued green-frame stamp of this value without an overprint. The 40 fillér is the only black-numeral stamp of this value.

Red-numeral issues. All of the red-numeral issues are perforated 15 and have the horizontal multiple apostolic cross watermark. They are distinguished from each other by their denominations. The first issue, 1915, had the usual set of values, lacking only the 50 and 100 fillér. The second issue, 1918, consisted of the 15 and 30 fillér values. The third issue, 1920, added 40, 50, 120, and 200 fillér values; and the fourth and last issue, 1922, added three korona denominations.

As the post-war inflation of the korona increased, the green-frame stamps were supplemented by harvesters definitives overprinted with increasing korona denominations; but most of the green-frame stamps were not invalidated until 31 March 1927. It is unlikely, however, that any of them were used after 1923.

References:

A magyar bélyegek monográfiája. Vol. IV. A postai bérmentesítés 1900-1944, pp.140-144, 151-153, 160-161, 169, 179-180, 197-198,219-226,219-226,271-273,371. Közlekedési Dokumentációs Vállalat, Budapest, 1971. Translated for the author by Denes Bogner.

Magyar posta- és illetékbélyeg katalógus 2006, pp. 8-9, 336-340. Philatelia Hungarica Kft, Budapest, 2006.

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MORE ON AIRMAIL COVERS FROM HUNGARY TO HAWAII

by **Judy Kennett**

The article on page 24 of the October - December 2007 issue of **The News of Hungarian Philately** dealt with two airmail covers, one posted from Kispest on 19 March 1940, and the other posted on 28 May 1941, and both addressed to George Benedict in Honolulu, Hawaii. Csaba Kohalmi commented that there were no arrival markings on the reverse of the covers, nor was it possible to deduce the direction in which the covers had travelled - westwards by air across the Atlantic Ocean from Europe to the USA, then across the USA, or eastwards by air from Europe across the Middle East and southeast Asia.

I hold three more covers from the Benedict correspondence, two large-sized registered surface mail covers, both franked with 1.30P, and one airmail cover, franked with 3.20P. Details of posting and transit are as follows:

- Registered cover posted at Kispest, 11 May 1940
    - Back stamps are New York Registered 23 May 1940 and
    - Honolulu Registered 15 June 1940
- Registered cover posted at Kispest, 25 September 1940
    - Back stamps are New York Registered 21 November 1940
    - San Francisco Registered 26 November 1940
- Airmail cover posted at Budapest 9, 3 May 1941
    - On the reverse, Hungarian censor tape and censor number '103'.

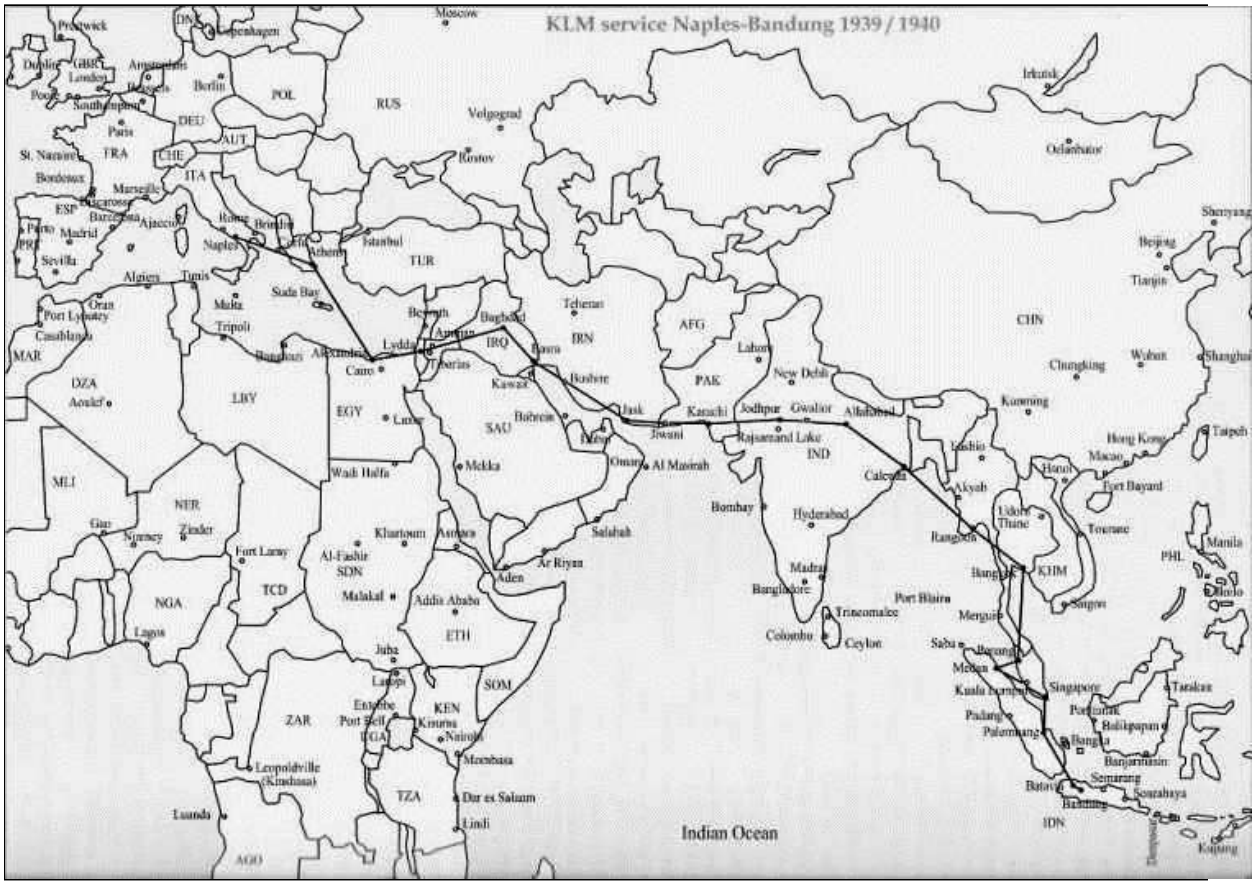
The two registered covers show clearly that the westward route was used for surface mail addressed to Hawaii. This arrangement was in existence earlier; another registered cover in my collection (to a different correspondent) posted at Budapest 112 on 12 December 1939 shows the same path. It arrived in Honolulu on 24 January 1940.

Analysis of possible routes travelled

In September 2005 I was able to acquire a copy of a very comprehensive and useful book **Bridging the Continents in Wartime: Important Airmail Routes 1939-1945** by Hans E Aitink and Egbert Hovenkamp, published in the Netherlands by a group of sponsors, including the Dutch Airmail Society. It is in English and Dutch. With the help of the detailed timetables published in this book, I was able to analyze both the eastern and the western routes from Hungary to Hawaii. I will deal with the eastern route first.

In addition to the airmail covers shown in the article in **The News of Hungarian Philately**, I have another from the same correspondence. It was posted at Budapest 9 on 3 May 1941 and has a Hungarian censor tape and censor number '103', but no other postal markings.

The eastern route - through Europe, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia



Map of the KLM Service from Naples to Bandung, 1939/1940.

First, we need a short note about the history of early mail services from Europe to Southeast Asia. KLM (Royal Dutch Airlines) had been providing regular air services for both mails and passengers to the colony in the Netherlands East Indies (now Indonesia) since 1931. Land aircraft were used, and the service ran twice weekly until July 1938, when it changed to three times weekly. The route across Europe went from Amsterdam - Leipzig - Budapest - Athens, thence to Alexandria (Egypt). This meant that any mails from Hungary to countries along the route through the Middle East and Asia could be picked up at Budapest airport (Mátyásföld). In the European winters, the KLM aircraft flew over France and Italy (south of the Alps) instead of the northern route that was subject to bad weather. In winter months Hungarian mails for onward transmission were probably picked up at either Naples (Italy) or Athens (Greece).

The outbreak of World War 2 (WW2) in August-September 1939 caused considerable changes in the arrangements for air services in Europe. After this, KLM could no longer fly over Germany. Instead the aircraft flew over France and Italy, and the European departure point became an airfield at Naples. The cover posted in Kispest on 19 March 1940 falls into this period of operation, and possibly was on a KLM flight that left Naples on 22 March 1940, arriving in Batavia (NEI) on 27 March 1940. It might have been possible for this cover to have been carried by air from Batavia to Honolulu, but that would have involved meeting complex timings of three different air services: Batavia to Saigon (KLM), Saigon to Hong Kong (Air France), and then being picked up in Hong Kong by a PanAm FAM 14 flight that called at Honolulu on the way across the Pacific to San Francisco.

The covers posted on 3 May 1941 and 28 May 1941 would have been caught up in the escalation of hostilities in WW2 since Italy had entered the war on the German side on 10 June 1940. KLM operations were forced to leave Naples, and did not resume for some months. From late July 1940, the flights to the NEI left from the Lydda airport near Tel Aviv in Palestine (now Israel). I know from my Hungary-Australia airmail collecting that there was a significant fall-off in the amount of mail reaching Australia from Eastern Europe after mid-1940, and airmail ceased altogether after the German Army invaded Greece and the Balkans in April 1941.

Summing up, the route for airmails from Hungary to Hawaii through the Middle East and Southeast Asia was always a complex one. It was interrupted as the war in Europe spread, and it seems that after April 1941, the Hungarian postal authorities could not guarantee to send airmails out of the country to eastern countries. Surface mails continued, subject to the availability of shipping, long delays, and to the dangers posed to civilian ships from enemy aircraft.

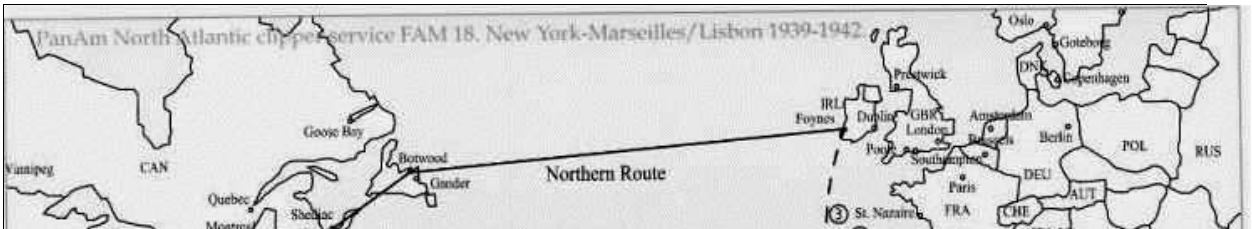
There would have been little incentive to use an eastern route after a vastly more convenient arrangement had become available in the western route across the Atlantic Ocean from Lisbon in Portugal to New York. The PanAm FAM 18 service had commenced operations on 20 May 1939.

The western route - via Berlin and Lisbon to New York

In **The Pioneer Period of Hungarian Airmail**, Victor J. Berecz writes about the early Trans-Atlantic airmails, on both the southern and the northern routes. Both Aerospatiale (later Air France) and Deutsche Luft Hansa (known as DLH) had carried on airmail services to South America from 1930, although early services had been compelled to use surface depot ships for refueling and for sections of the journey. It was not until 1936 that Air France was able to make all-air flights on a regular basis. The Air France service continued following the outbreak of WW2 until June 1940. The DLH service ceased with the beginning of the war.

In the early 1930s, catapult mail involving small seaplanes and three German liners was used to speed the passage of mail across the North Atlantic Ocean. However, these were seasonal services only. The first regular all-air service across the ocean by the Northern route did not begin until the PanAm FAM 18 flights started on 20 May 1939. Marseilles in France was the eastern terminus until France entered the war in May 1940; the terminus was then shifted to Lisbon in Portugal, which remained neutral throughout the war.

According to Victor J. Berecz, such airmail services as existed in Europe after September 1939 were under the virtual control of the German airline Lufthansa. Prior to the war, there had been regular air services between Berlin and Budapest, and Lufthansa also had a services to Lisbon.



Map of the PanAm North Atlantic Clipper Service FAM 18, New York-Marseilles/Lisbon, 1939-1942.

Our three airmail covers to Honolulu probably travelled Budapest, Berlin, Lisbon. From the timetables for the FAM 18 service provided in **Bridging the Continents in Wartime: Important Airmail Routes 1939-1945**, it is possible to guess when flights carrying the three covers posted in Budapest on 19 March 1940, 3 May 1941, and 28 May 1941 might have departed from Lisbon and arrived in New York. In late 1940 and in 1941, until the Trans-Atlantic service ceased, flights to New York took between one and three days. I have a registered cover that was posted in Budapest on 5 June 1941, and it was given an arrival stamp when it reached New York on 22 June 1941.

It is tempting to assume that the airmail surcharge of 1,40P for up to 5gm on these covers to Hawaii was sufficient to pay for air passage across the USA to San Francisco. San Francisco was the continental departure point for the PanAm FAM 14 service to Hong Kong, which called at Hawaii. The PanAm services across the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans continued until the entry of USA into World War 2 on 8 December 1941. With that event, the last outlet for airmails from Hungary ended.

This has proved to be a most interesting exercise, and I've picked up a great deal of information about airmail services across the globe in the process.

In the preparation of this article, I have made extensive use of the following:

- Aitink, Hans E. and Hovenkamp, Egbert, **Bridging the Continents in Wartime: Important Airmail Routes 1939-1945**, published by Stichting Luchtpostgeschiedenis Tweede Wereldoorlog, Enschede, The Netherlands, 2005. Map illustrations above were reproduced from the book.
- Berecz, Victor J. Jr., **The Pioneer Period of Hungarian Airmail**, The American Air Mail Society, Mineola NY, 1996.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi Csaba,

Congratulations, another great issue! I especially like it when you are able to show a great variety of subjects.

I believe that 'What I saw on eBay' is one of (if not the most) the best read, most popular features in the News. It is so because you write it with such gusto. Because you are fed up with the Occupation related junk offered and bought on eBay (and around the world) don't abandon the rest of the offered material for it is the most read and useful feature. Keep the column going!

Your observation that you are acting like Don Quixote with the old and newly made fraudulent Occupations related stamps is correct. No need to get sick over it, it is beyond your or anybody's reach to correct it. Face it: It is totally impossible! Do you know what is the real reason for this flood of junk? Because people will buy them despite the fact that they know that they are fake! Don't fool yourself, they DO know it. With that situation what can one do?

You know, in my life I have two memorable experiences regarding the Occupation issues. The first one was about 40+ years ago when I was trying to fill the spots in my album. I had realized that 9 out of every 10 stamps were fake. I decided that there was no way that I would start collecting and spending good money on such junk. The second was about 10 years ago when at a national stamp show I was talking to a collector of Hungarian stamps when the subject of Occupation issues came up. I stated that 9 out 10 stamps are fakes and I have no interest in them. He told me that in his experience it was more than 9 out of 10 were fake (meaning 99 out of 100) but "I DO NOT CARE" (his exact words). He was buying them. That remark told me the whole story; it should tell it to you, too. You can not teach or protect somebody who does not want to be informed and protected. In the end, they even resent your teaching.

On another subject to bring it to your attention, the Air Mail cover with the 10 Pengő Madonna stamp sent to Uruguay is offered now on Profila sale as Lot #70470.

Also, regarding the P.O. Box 506 covers, - congratulations getting two of them – I am not covering them as closely as the hyperinflation Air Mail covers, only as a side interest. Since my article in 2004, I've heard about some European auctions where several groups were sold. Presently I estimate that the known pieces range between 18 and 20; and, with this three, I'm sure that the total numbers are in the 20+ range. They represent a very interesting postal history!

In the December 2007 issue of the **Global Stamp News**, columnist Dr. Everett L. Parker reviewed several articles from the July-September 2007 issue of **The News of Hungarian Philately**. I am impressed with the publicity that he gave our Society. Thank you!

Best regards,

Robert B. Morgan

Hi, Csaba,

received my copy of **The News** yesterday. Thanks so much for a great issue, found some interesting things in it as always, especially the early Hungarian airmail covers! Ha Ha!

Thanks so much also for the wonderful humbling comments you made about all the members of the Executive Board; it is sincerely appreciated. Now; the question is will any members heed what you were trying to tell them about the future of our society and upcoming elections, new articles, etc. etc. Oh, my! I can't believe you are bailing out of the "What I Saw on eBay" column! I fully understand and yes, it is certainly discouraging how he Hungarian printers seem to be ruining our hobby. I thoroughly enjoyed every one of your columns and learned a lot as I hardly ever pursue eBay listings being I am always involved with so many other things in my life. It's sad, because philately and weekend stamp collecting used to be one of the main activities and it seems too many other ventures have over shadowed that in many years. Got to get back to it!

Once again thanks for your great issue.

My best,

H. Alan Hoover

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LETTERS TO THE PRESIDENT

Dear Mr. Hoover;

I would like to thank the Executive Board for the honor of bestowing to me the Lifetime Membership of our Society. Although I personally didn't donate any articles for print, I did very much enjoy reading them.

One thing that I wish the Society would do is help us postal stationery collectors, reference us to some one who could help obtain post cards and stationery.

I would like to thank Mr. Emmerich Vamos for helping me out, and by picking things up in his travels to Europe. Best wishes to all.

Louis Byar

Dear Alan,

I would like to start off by thanking everyone for a fine organization to be a member of and without all your hard work and several others, it probably would not exist. I enjoy reading our great magazine each and every month.

That all being said I would like to write about a few things. I mentioned at the last society meeting that putting the magazine on-line, on a members page so its not free to everyone, might save a few dollars in postage. I would also like to see a picture of each of Society leadership, so when a new person, like myself, goes to the meetings I know at least a face, which could be friendly or at least may have something to talk about in common... like the society. "What I saw on eBay," I truly hope that this article does not go away. For a person like myself, relatively new to the hobby, this is a great part to read about. I enjoy reading "why" something is fake, to me that is interesting. I think what is getting the Editor down is the fact that members abuse each other by the buying and selling of rare stamps... but say "no guarantee." PLEASE educate us. You wanted to highlight - please do! Advise, educate, warn - please DO! Even a new person knows you have to be careful... What would I like? Well, Mr. Heinz Pape approved good stamps at first and then ruined his reputation by approving bogus stamps. How about the others? An article on guarantee marks, which ones are real and which ones are not would be great. "Who" are behind some of the marks would be great. Who is "Ohne"? /*Ohne* is a German word for *without* used in the context *without guarantee*. Leslie Ettre published a series of articles on the subject of the various 'guarantee' marks back in the early 1970s. Since then, new 'guarantors' have come on board. Ed./ I expanded my collecting to "Emlékívek" (non-postal souvenir) sheets, but since I do not read Hungarian (very well - need help with words) it would be great to know more about them and the overprints they have for various years. Stamp colors: something on line which explains the colors would be great - I bought a great color chip chart with a hole in the center, but as luck would have it, I don't know what color chip equates to what Hungarian color-word. That would be a great help. I would love to help, but since I do not have any language skills nor understand "why" older covers are forgeries, I'm not much use to you. I do what I can by keeping my membership current, buying and selling (creating revenue) utilizing the auction and attending the one meeting I could afford to fly to. I'm only asking for the world, hahaha! Please do not give up hope... people do appreciate what everyone does. Might I suggest that if needed you create a set of membership "standards" and when sellers do not meet the criteria, by selling garbage, you warn them and then "kick them out" like the APS. Put them on a "wall of shame" on the web site and the reasons why.... maybe that will make everyone feel better.

One last question, who from the society helps the Scott catalog people establish pricing? IF no one, maybe that is a task for someone. /Yes, several of our members in the past have been and are currently in a price-advisor position with Scott's catalog. Ed./ As I try to collect what should be relatively easy stuff to get (looking at the price) it can take years to find it - that should be the first step in value, if you can find a lot of it, its cheap and if its not easy to find the value should go up...but my voice is but one a crowd.

Take care,

Greg Gessell

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THE EDITOR'S NOTES

by **Csaba L. Kohalmi**

The long, dreary Midwest winter gave way to a phantom spring; and it's time to strike another note of editorial discontent. **I USED EVERY BIT OF MATERIAL THAT WAS SENT TO ME SINCE THE LAST ISSUE** for this publication**.** (I was also fortunate to find tie-in to an input that's been languishing in the 'new material' folder for years, i.e., the Bánát Bácska fake overprints). From my perspective, this is really bad because our members, myself included, usually put stamp collecting on the back burner during the summer months of activity. I usually like to have 24 pages in an issue; but, in times of desperation, I will publish a 20-page newsletter. Still, we're a long way from even that, however. So, the future of the July-September issue is in the hands of the would-be contributors. Otherwise, my fellow members, you may see a 'combined' July-December issue. That would be unfortunate because our Society has not missed a quarterly publication since the late 1970s. Every Board members' address, postal and e-mail, is located on the inside of the front cover of each issue for your convenience in corresponding. PLEASE SEND IN SOMETHING!

The Museum of the American-Hungarian Foundation, 300 Somerset Street, New Brunswick, NJ is featuring an exhibit of Hungarian posters, advertising, and ephemera though September 14, 2008. The museum hours are 11-4 on Tuesday-Saturday, 1-4 on Sunday. One of the items illustrated on the announcement postcard was donated by SHP member **László Birinyi**.

The well-known Harvesters stamp design (Scott No. 106-107 and others) appeared on the new stamps of Hungary in 1916. Interestingly, the contest that picked this as the 'winning' design was held six year earlier back in 1910. Ödön Tull prepared the image. He was one of 119 artists who submitted 1,240 proposed stamp designs. The results of the competition were somewhat foggy since the official 2000 korona first place prize was never awarded. Nevertheless, Tull's depiction of the Hungarian peasant couple doing the back-breaking labor of harvesting wheat by hand was the first choice for the definitive series in new values that was needed to cover increases in postage rates due to the war in 1916. Surprisingly, Tull's design had already been used on vignettes prepared in 1910 for the Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition held in Nyíregyháza between September 3rd and the 11th.

Passages: **Tom Lantos** (1928-2008) passed away at age 80. He was a Hungarian Holocaust survivor whose life was saved by the actions of Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg. Lantos emigrated to the United States in 1947. He was a professor of economics, an international affairs analyst and an economic consultant before being elected to the US House of Representatives from California in 1981. He was a champion of Hungarian causes in Congress as well as the conscience for the World War II atrocities committed in Europe.

Erzsébet Nagy (1927-2008) was a first-hand witness to the events of 1956. She was the daughter of Imre Nagy, the legitimate Prime Minister of the Hungarian Government overthrown by Russian armor and replaced with the Kádár (Quisling) government in 1956. On November 4th 1956, she sought refuge in the Jugoslav Embassy in Budapest together with her father and husband Ferenc Jánossi. Several weeks later, Marshall Tito received assurances that once the family left the embassy they would be granted safe passage to their home in Budapest. Instead, the refugees were arrested and transported to Snagov in Rumania where they awaited their fate. The group was returned to Hungary in late 1957. Her father was tried for treason and executed in June 1958. Her husband was sentenced to eight years in prison. In 1988 she became a founding member of the Historical Rectification Committee.

Mari Maléter (1947-2008) was the daughter of Colonel Pál Maléter, the Minister of Defense

in the Nagy Government during the 1956 Hungarian Freedom Fight. Her father was executed by the Kádár-government in 1958 his role in the uprising and rehabilitated in 1989. Mari passed away after a lengthy illness in Sarasota, FL. She is survived by her mother Mária, sister Judit, and brother Pál.

Left: A picture from 1957 of Pál Maléter's children signing a telegram in New York addressed to Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Bulganin petitioning for clemency towards their father. Maléter's ex-wife is on the left next to an unidentified man. The children are Mari, Pál, and Jutka.

I've had multiple discussions with several members on the subject of stopping the review counterfeit overprints offered for sale on eBay. Some understood of my frustration; others offered encouragement to continue. I decided to continue highlighting interesting items within my *The Editor's Notes* column while staying away from the fake stuff. As a final word on the subject, it is a RARE occurrence that the following eBay sellers offer genuine stamps: **vertesfila56**, **muonas**, **va7591**, **jabberwocky_68,** and **hodfila1964** from Hungary as well as **hold2112** from Germany. All of these sellers state that they are not experts and that the material is 'without guarantee.' It is doubly sad because I've dealt with all of them on eBay. They are all fine Hungarians, some of them are outstanding experts in specific areas of Hungarian philately. Yet, when it comes to making a buck, they show a much darker side of their human nature. I chuckled at one negative feedback given to the seller of a 1945 Abony overprint. The Ukrainian buyer lambasted the stamp as having been produced on the photocopier. He paid US$60+ for the item; but, should he not have expected a fake when each Abony stamp exists in less than a dozen copies? On the other side of the coin, these 'album weeds' readily find willing buyers. Please read or re-read Bob Morgan's letter in the front of this issue.

Almost as a footnote: our old 'friend' **abelikow** from Argentina returned to eBay in April with his fantasy overprints, 'Levant' on Hungary, etc. inspired, perhaps, by the other sellers.

At the end of February, eBay instituted a change that insures anonymity in bidding. Bidders' user identifiers are no longer listed for each item. Only the seller is aware of who is bidding on his/her item. As a result, I, as well as other eBayers will no longer be able to view the bidding activities of SHP members unless they are the successful buyer.

Now here comes the fun stuff. The 19871 3kr stamped envelope shown below was 'doctored' with a hand-drawn postmark in order to create a scarce, postally used local letter from 1872..

1871 Stamped envelope with fake cancellation

A scarce, fine, used 1867 50kr stamp cancelled with the Temesvár Pénz-Utalvány cds sold for US$306. Only 12,800 copies of this stamp were delivered to Hungary by the State Printing Office in Vienna between 1867 and 1871.

Left: 1867 50kr used in Temesvár. Right: Postally used Tho-Ma advertising letter card from 1930.

The Tho-Ma closed letter card, illustrated above, postally used from Budapest to the United States, was purchased by an SHP member from Hungary for US$545.

Another example of mail sent to Lisbon P.O. Box 506 was offered and found a buyer from Hungary for US$588. This particular example was re-addressed and re-stamped with British postage by the Thos. Cook & Son agency. (I hope to be able to illustrate other P.O. Box 506 covers in the next newsletter.)

A unique example of a value letter from the last day of the hyperinflation, 31 July 1946, found a home in the gold-medal award winning collection of one of our members for US$640+. The envelope was marked as containing 10 billion tax-pengő banknotes. It was franked with 52,400,000AP (tax-pengő) stamps and was posted locally in Zalaegerszeg. It was delivered on the same day, 31 July 1946. The fee for sending banknotes was 300,000AP per 50,000,000AP, so the 10 milliard (billion) shipment should have been franked with at least 200 x 300,000AP = 60 million AP stamps. By my reckoning, the envelope was short-paid a few million tax-pengős.

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A STUDY OF BÁNÁT BÁCSKA COUNTERFEIT OVERPRINTS

submitted by **William Maddocks**

HAMISÍTVÁNYOK
1. Más kiadások felhasznalása
2. Vastagabb betütipusok, a vessző 1,5 mm-re, vastag él
3. A felülnyomat dölesiszöge 0°-vízszintes
4. Felcserélt felolnyomattipusok

COUNTERFEITS

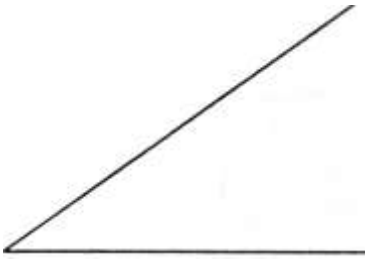
1. Using different issues

2. Thicker letters, the comma (spacing is) 1.5mm, thick accent marks

3. The angle of the overprint is 0° - horizontal

4. Wrong overprint typesetting used

Notes:
1. The first stamp in each row shows a genuine overprint.
2. The angle of the genuine overprint is 35°. A fairly accurate pictorial representation of this angle is shown on the right. Readers can create a template for use in examining stamps by tracing the angle on a piece of glassine envelope.



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MORE BÁNÁT BÁCSKA COUNTERFEIT OVERPRINTS

by **Csaba L. Kohalmi**

Many years ago, I received sixteen color copies of album pages that **David Miles** had prepared of a vast array of fake Bánát Bácska overprints. In the attached note, David stated that

a few years ago I bought some covers from a well-known auction house, inside each envelope were some stamps in all around 240 plus all different, apart from the different colors and the overprints with whole sets inverted - sideways, harvester stamp overprint type on parliament stamps, etc. Even as forgeries, these must be a unique collection of reference material.

The pages contained full sets of obsolete stamps (Turul-issue, War Aid II overprints, 1915 20f/100f Porto, Coronation) as well as Harvesters with Köztársaság overprint and Magyar Posta inscription all bearing the Bánát Bácska 1919 overprint. The overprints also came in red color, some inverted, and some with mirror image typesetting. I couldn't reproduce all sixteen pages, but I did make scans of the distinct varieties in order to highlight the 'creativity' of the forgers. I have seen many such stamps offered for sale on eBay as scarce errors. I have also seen pairs of stamps bearing a different color overprint on each stamp being offered for sale.

Fake Bánát Bácska overprints

More fake Bánát Bácska overprints

The most blatantly wrong feature of some of the stamps was that previously postally used copies were utilized by the forger(s). These stamps were cancelled in towns throughout Hungary, none of which were near Temesvár in the Bánát Bácska region. Also please note that the red 'over-prints' appear in a lighter shade of gray than the back ones in the illustrations.

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HUNGARIAN POSTAL RATES FOR 2008

The rate increases for the year 2008 again represent an interesting mixed bag of small increases (HUF 5-10) for domestic rates; larger increases (HUF 10-50) for rates to Europe and other destinations. For larger weight increments sent outside of the country, the rates for priority (airmail) handling remained unchanged while the rates for non-priority increased significantly.

(US $1 = ~ HUF 160.-)

/*Information in the table was compiled from the web page of the Hungarian Post*/

New Hungarian Postal Rates	**1 January 2008**					
(simplified version)	Domestic		Europe		Other Destinations	
	Non-priority	Priority	Non-priority	Priority	Non-priority	Priority
Standard letter[1] to 30gm	70.-	100.-	-	-	-	-
Standard letter[1] to 20gm	-	-	200.-	230.-	220.-	250.-
Letter up to 20gm, non-standard	-	-	250.-	290.-	270.-	310.-
Letter up to 50gm	100.-	145.-	345.-	390.-	400.-	440.-
Letter up to 100gm	120.-	175.-	400.-	470.-	450.-	500.-
Letter up to 250gm	155.-	225.-	780.-	1.050.-	900.-	1.170.-
Letter up to 500gm	280.-	350.-	1.420.-	1.820.-	1.650.-	2.030.-
Letter up to 750gm	450.-	570.-	-	-	-	-
Letter up to 1000gm	-	-	2.470.-	3.520.-	2.900.-	3.970.-
Letter up to 1500gm	-	-	3.300.-	4.690.-	3.900.-	5.380.-
Letter up to 2000gm	580.-	730.-	4.000.-	5.850.-	4.900.-	6.790.-
Post Card	70.-	100.-	150.-	170.-	170.-	190.-
M Bag up to 5kg	-	-	4.750.-	6.000.-	6.600.-	7.500.-
M Bag over 5kg, per kg	-	-	750.-	800.-	1.500.-	1.600.-
E-mail notification	50.-		500.-		500.-	
Domestic parcel up to 20 kg	830.- (standard)		-		-	
Domestic parcel up to 20 kg	1.360.- (non-standard)		-			
Collect on Delivery	250.-		300.-		300.-	
Registration	190.-		650.-		650.-	
Certified/Tértivevény	120.-		300.-		300.-	
Official Correspondence	275.-		-		-	
" delivered to addressee only	320.-		-		-	
Deliver to addressee only	180.-		350.-		350.-	
Declared value	310.- (up to 10.000Ft)		200.- for each 5.000Ft		200.- for each 5.000Ft	
" for each 1000Ft over 10.000Ft	30.-		-		-	

***Footnote*:**
[1] The "Standard Envelope" dimensions are 114 x 162 mm (minimum) and 110 x 220 mm (maximum).

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2008 NEW ISSUES

Issue date: 8 February 2008

My Greetings Personalized Stamp

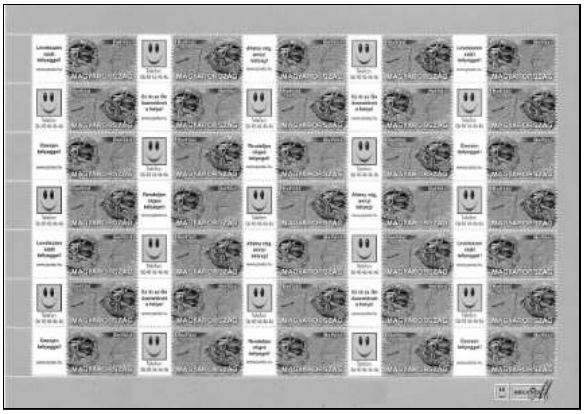
Face value: non-denominated, domestic letter rate (selling price at issue: HUF 70). Stamp size: 36.3 x 25.2mm; label size: 18 x 25.2mm.
Designer: Péter Berky.

Technical details: Printed in offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. in sheets of 35 stamps plus 35 labels that can be personalized.

Issue date: 27 February 2008

Easter

Face value: HUF 70. Stamp size: 445 x 26.7mm.
Designer: Eszter Domé based on a photograph by József Hajdu. Design shows traditional Hungarian Easter eggs.
Technical details: Printed in sheets of 50 using offset by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. in quantities required by postal demand.



Issue date: 13 March 2008

81st Stamp Day

Face value: HUF 70 & 100 (stamps); HUF 600 + 200 (souvenir sheet). Stamp size: 50 x 30mm; souvenir sheet size: 91 x 75mm; stamp from sheet size: 40 x 30mm. The HUF 200 surtax benefitted organized stamp collecting activities.
Designer: Ferenc Svindt. Designs show scenes from the Renaissance court of King Mátyás.
Technical details: Printed using offset by the State Printing Office, Ltd. The both values of stamps were printed in the same sheet of 50 with tete-beche arrangement. 500,000 sets of stamps and 80,000 souvenir sheets were issued.

Issue date: 14 March 2008

200th Anniversaary of the Birth of General Károly Knézich

Face value: HUF 380. Stamp size: 40 x 30mm.
Designer: László Dudás. The design shows the portrait of Knézich and a scene from the Battle of Komárom. Knézich was one on the 13 martyred generals executed on 6 October 1849.

Technical details: Printed using offset in sheets of 50 by the State Printing Office, Ltd. in an edition of 250,000 stamps.

Pro Juventute 2008

/continued on the inside of the back cover/

CONCLUSION OF THE SHP EXHIBIT FROM *WASHINGTON 2006*

***exhibit prepared by* Csaba L. Kohalmi**

HUNGARICA

The *HUNGARICA* topic includes all stamps and postal history covers related to Hungary or Hungarians but issued outside of Hungary. The United States Postal Service has honored many Hungarian-descent persons who made noteable contributions to science and art in their new homeland. Mathematicians Theodore von Kármán and John von Neumann as well as conductor Eugene Ormándy and actor Béla Lugosi have been pictured on US stamps.

Hungarian statesman Lajos Kossuth was featured on a pair of Champion of Liberty stamps from 1958. He spent the last 35 years of his life in exile living in Torino, Italy. Italy commemorated the centennary of his death in 1994.

The list of stamps depicting the Hungarian flag, for example, is long. From the United Nations to Kuwait, dozens of countries have produced such stamps. Hungary was tied in with the Soviet block and this resulted in countless stamps issued by the Warsaw Pact nations depicting the flag or an event in history, such as the Soviet Union commemorating the 'liberation' of Hungary at five-year intervals.

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Face value: HUF 600 + 60. Stamp size: 30 x 40mm; small sheet size: 140 x 60mm.
Designer: Zsolt Vidák. Stamp designs show transportation vehicles.
Technical details: Printed in small sheets of 4 by the Banknote Printers, Ltd. using offset in an edition of 100,000 sheets. The surtax benefitted young stamp collectors.

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WANTED: Collector in Hungary is looking for better material from the period September 1944 to September 1945. Interested in double or inverted overprints, entire sheets with special varieties, better covers, Nyíregyháza issue in every format.

Please contact **Dr. Bernáth Gábor, Szeged, Mérey u. 8. H-6722 Hungary.**

WANTED: Any and all material dealing with the Hungarian Gendarmerie (*Csendőrség*) such as mailing labels, picture post cards, postcards, covers, cancellation, documents, photos, anything and everything bearing Gendarmerie addresses or addressees. Call or write.

Zoltan Korossy, 11227 Woodson Ave., Kensington, MD 20895. Tel: **(301) 946-2414**.
E-mail: **zoltan@korossy.org**.

FOR SALE: BOUND VOLUMES OF *THE NEWS OF HUNGARIAN PHILATELY*

Book #	Volumes	Years	Cost
1	1-3	1970-1972	$30
2	4-6	1973-1975	$30
3	7-9	1976-1978	$30
4	10-12	1979-1981	$30
5	13-15	1982-1984	$30
6	16-18	1985-1987	$30
7	19-21	1988-1990	$30
8	22-24	1991-1993	$30
9	25-27	1994-1996	$30
10	28-30	1997-1999	$30
11	31-32	2000-2001	$30
12 *	33-36	2002-2005	**$50 ***

Each book No. 1 thru 11 individually is priced at $30.00 or purchase the entire set of the first 11 books for $320.00. *** Book No. 12 costs $50 each.** Freight fees will be added to all orders. Orders and inquiries should be sent to:

H. Alan Hoover, 6070 Poplar Spring Drive, Norcross, GA 30092; tel: **(770) 840-8766**,
e-mail: **h.alan.hoover@hungarianphilately.org**

POSTER ADVERTISING THE MILLENNARY EXHIBITION

IN BUDAPEST,

2 MAY TO 31 OCTOBER 1896